AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 2003 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003-04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1390

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas (Coauthors: Assembly Members *Cogdill*, Dymally, Hancock, Lieber, Maze, Nation, and Pavley)

(Coauthor: Senator Soto)

February 21, 2003

An act to add and repeal Sections 17052.11 and 23611 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation, to take effect immediately, tax levy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1390, as amended, Ridley-Thomas. Income tax credits: fuel efficient vehicles.

The Personal Income Tax Law and the Bank and Corporation Tax Law authorize various credits against the taxes imposed by those laws.

This bill would authorize a credit against those taxes for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2003, 2004, and before January 1, 2008, in an amount equal to 20%, but not to exceed \$2,000, of the amount paid or incurred during the taxable year for the purchase of a *new* fuel efficient vehicle. This bill would define a fuel efficient vehicle as a vehicle that *is either an alternative fuel vehicle*, *or a vehicle that* achieves a fuel efficiency that is 35% greater than the average miles per gallon fuel economy established for vehicles of the same classification as that vehicle.

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This bill would require the credit to be reduced by the amount of any grants, rebates, or credits issued by the State Air Resources Board, or any other state or local agency, as an incentive to purchase a fuel efficient vehicle.

This bill would provide that the credits authorized by this bill will not be allowable until a taxable year that includes, in whole or in part, the first fiscal year following the enactment of this bill for which the Director of Finance makes a certified finding that the revenues for that fiscal year will equal or exceed the expenditures for that fiscal year.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy, but its operative date would be January 1, 2004.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- SECTION 1. Section 17052.11 is added to the Revenue and 1 Taxation Code, to read:
- 17052.11. (a) Subject to subdivision (b), for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2003, 2004, and before January 1, 2008, there shall be allowed as a credit against the "net tax," as defined in Section 17039, an amount equal to 20 percent, not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000), of the amount paid or incurred during the taxable year for the purchase of a new fuel 9 efficient vehicle.
 - (b) (1) The credit authorized by this section shall be allowable for a taxable year described in subdivision (a) only if that taxable year includes, in whole or in part, or follows the first fiscal year, beginning after the operative date of this section, for which the Director of Finance makes a certified finding that projected state revenues for that fiscal year will equal or exceed projected state expenditures for that fiscal year.
 - (2) The certified finding required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor no later that June 15 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year for which the certified finding is made.
- (3) The Director of Finance, in making the finding required by 21 paragraph (1), shall consider all relevant economic indicators 22 including, but not limited to, the following: 23

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(A) The most recent budgetary revenue forecast prepared by the Department of Finance for the current fiscal year.

- (B) The most recent budgetary revenue forecast prepared by the Department of Finance for the next fiscal year.
- (C) All outstanding disbursements that are scheduled to be made during the current fiscal year.
- (D) Anticipated budgetary adjustments that are required to be made during the current fiscal year.
- (E) Interfund loans and fund shifting transfers that are to be made for both the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year.
 - (F) Data from the May budget revision.

- (G) The actual cash receipts for the current fiscal year.
- (H) The actual tax receipts collected by the Franchise Tax Board through the month of April of the current fiscal year.
- (I) The projected revenue losses for the next fiscal year that would be attributable to the credit authorized by this section.
- (4) The Controller shall provide the Director of Finance with any information available to the Controller that is requested by the Director of Finance for purposes of making the determination required by paragraph (1).
 - (c) For purposes of this section:
- (1) "CALCARS" means the California Light Duty Vehicle Conventional and Alternative Fuel Response Simulator maintained by the California Energy Commission.
- (2) "Fuel efficient vehicle" means a new vehicle, as described in Section 430 of the Vehicle Code, that qualifies as either of the following:
- (A) An alternative fuel vehicle as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 2580 of the Streets and Highways Code.
- (B) A qualified vehicle that achieves a combined miles per gallon economy that is at least 35 percent greater than the average miles per gallon fuel economy achieved by the 2003 models of new vehicles in the same CALCARS vehicle class as the qualified vehicle. "Fuel efficient vehicle" does not include any vehicle with a combined miles per gallon fuel economy of less than 21 miles per gallon. The average combined miles per gallon fuel economy for each CALCARS vehicle class shall be calculated annually by the California Energy Commission.
- (3) "Combined miles per gallon fuel economy" for a qualified vehicle shall be based on the miles per gallon estimates calculated

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by CALCARS and shall be calculated using a formula that allocates 55 percent as city miles per gallon and the remaining 45 percent as highway miles per gallon.

- (4) "Qualified vehicle" means any vehicle that is evaluated by the California Energy Commission under the CALCARS program.
- (d) In order to be eligible for the credit authorized by this section, a fuel efficient vehicle must be continuously registered in this state, from the date of purchase until the last day of the taxable year for which this credit is claimed, to the taxpayer claiming the credit authorized by this section.
- (e) The credit authorized by this section shall be reduced, but not below zero, by the amount of any grant, rebate, or credit issued to the taxpayer by the State Air Resources Board, or any other state or local agency, as an incentive for the purchase of a new fuel efficient vehicle as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).
- (f) In the case where the credit allowed by this section exceeds the "net tax," the excess may be carried over to reduce the "net tax" in the following year, and succeeding years if necessary, until the credit is exhausted. tax" for the next year and the five succeeding years, or until the credit has been exhausted, whichever occurs first.

(e)

- (g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2009, and as of that date is repealed.
- SEC. 2. Section 23611 is added to the Revenue and Taxation Code, to read:
- 23611. (a) Subject to subdivision (b), for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2003, 2004, and before January 1, 2008, there shall be allowed as a credit against the "tax," as defined in Section 23036, an amount equal to 20 percent, not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000), of the amount paid or incurred during the taxable year for the purchase of a new fuel efficient vehicle.
- (b) (1) The credit authorized by this section shall be allowable for a taxable year described in subdivision (a) only if that taxable year includes, in whole or in part, or follows the first fiscal year, beginning after the operative date of this section, for which the Director of Finance makes a certified finding that projected state

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revenues for that fiscal year will equal or exceed projected state expenditures for that fiscal year.

- (2) The certified finding required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor no later that June 15 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year for which the certified finding is made.
- (3) The Director of Finance, in making the finding required by paragraph (1), shall consider all relevant economic indicators including, but not limited to, the following:
- (A) The most recent budgetary revenue forecast prepared by the Department of Finance for the current fiscal year.
- (B) The most recent budgetary revenue forecast prepared by the Department of Finance for the next fiscal year.
- (C) All outstanding disbursements that are scheduled to be made during the current fiscal year.
- (D) Anticipated budgetary adjustments that are required to be made during the current fiscal year.
- (E) Interfund loans and fund shifting transfers that are to be made for both the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year.
 - (F) Data from the May budget revision.
 - (G) The actual cash receipts for the current fiscal year.
- (H) The actual tax receipts collected by the Franchise Tax Board through the month of April of the current fiscal year.
- (I) The projected revenue losses for the next fiscal year that would be attributable to the credit authorized by this section.
- (4) The Controller shall provide the Director of Finance with any information available to the Controller that is requested by the Director of Finance for purposes of making the determination required by paragraph (1).
 - (c) For purposes of this section:
- (1) "CALCARS" means the California Light Duty Vehicle Conventional and Alternative Fuel Response Simulator maintained by the California Energy Commission.
- (2) "Fuel efficient vehicle" means a new vehicle, as described in Section 430 of the Vehicle Code, that qualifies as either of the following:
- (A) An alternative fuel vehicle as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 2580 of the Streets and Highway Code.
- (B) A qualified vehicle that achieves a combined miles per gallon economy that is at least 35 percent greater than the average

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miles per gallon fuel economy achieved by *the 2003 models of new* vehicles in the same CALCARS vehicle class as the qualified vehicle. "Fuel efficient vehicle" does not include any vehicle with a combined miles per gallon fuel economy of less than 21 miles per gallon. The average combined miles per gallon fuel economy for each CALCARS vehicle class shall be calculated annually by the California Energy Commission.

- (3) "Combined miles per gallon fuel economy" for a qualified vehicle shall be based on the miles per gallon estimates calculated by CALCARS and shall be calculated using a formula that allocates 55 percent as city miles per gallon and the remaining 45 percent as highway miles per gallon.
- (4) "Qualified vehicle" means any vehicle that is evaluated by the California Energy Commission under the CALCARS program.
- (d) In order to be eligible for the credit authorized by this section, the fuel efficient vehicle must be continuously registered in this state, from the date of purchase until the last day of the taxable year for which this credit is claimed, to the taxpayer claiming the credit authorized by this section.
- (e) The credit authorized by this section shall be reduced, but not below zero, by the amount of any grant, rebate, or credit issued to the taxpayer by the State Air Resources Board, or any other state or local agency, as an incentive for the purchase of a new fuel efficient vehicle as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).
- (f) In the case where the credit allowed by this section exceeds the "tax," the excess may be carried over to reduce the "tax" in the following year, and succeeding years if necessary, until the eredit is exhausted.
- (e)—for the next year and the five succeeding years, or until the credit has been exhausted, whichever occurs first.
- (g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2009, and as of that date is repealed.
- 34 SEC. 3. This act provides for a tax levy within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.
- 36 However, this act shall become operative on January 1, 2004.